

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-08  
IO-13 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 COME-00 /057 W  
-----086622 300808Z /20

R 300610Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 52  
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EAID, IBRD, KU  
SUBJECT: IBRD PRESIDENT MCNAMARA VISITS KUWAIT

1. IBRD PRESIDENT MCNAMARA ACCOMPANIED BY WORLD BANK DIVISION CHIEF FOR MIDDLE EAST BENJENK CALLED ON KUWAIT'S AMIR, FINANCE MINISTER ATEEQI, AND KUWAIT FUND DIRECTOR AL-HAMAD DURING VISIT TO KUWAIT JANUARY 25-27. MCNAMARA DECLINED TO MAKE ANY STATEMENT TO REPORTERS ON HIS ARRIVAL AND KUWAIT PRESS COVERAGE WAS SPARSE, LIMITING ITSELF TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE. PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS WAS APPARENTLY LIMITED TO THOSE LISTED ABOVE PLUS KUWAIT FUND DEPUTY DIRECTOR NASER AL-SAYER. KUWAIT RADIO INACCURATELY REPORTED THAT U.S. AMBASSADOR ACCOMPANIED MCNAMARA ON HIS CALL ON THE AMIR.

2. ACCORDING TO USUALLY RELIABLE KUWAIT FUND OFFICIAL, MCNAMARA REVIEWED EXTENSIVE WORLD BANK ACTIVITIES IN THE ARAB WORLD, ESPECIALLY EGYPT, AND APPEALED TO THE KUWAITIS TO RAISE LEVEL OF THEIR ASSISTANCE, ESPECIALLY IN COUNTRIES WHERE WORLD BANK, KUWAIT FUND AND OTHERS ARE WORKING ON COMMON OR  
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COMPLEMENTARY PROJECTS. POSSIBILITY OF INCREASING WORLD BANK'S CAPITAL IN ORDER TO BROADEN ITS BORROWING CAPACITY WAS ALSO DISCUSSED.

3. COMMENTING JANUARY 29TH TO ECON CHIEF ON VISIT, KUWAIT FUND ACTING DIRECTOR AL-SAYER (AL-HAMAD IS OUT OF COUNTRY) SAID THAT MCNAMARA CAME WITH NO SPECIAL PROPOSALS AND THAT

VISIT WAS "NEARLY ROUTINE" SINCE THE FUND AND THE WORLD BANK ARE IN CONSTANT CONTACT OVER SCORES OF PROJECTS. DESIRED CLOSE COOPERATION IS LIKELY TO INCREASE ACCORDING TO AL-SAYER. KUWAIT FUND ROUTINELY RECEIVES ALMOST ALL WORLD BANK FEASIBILITY STUDIES AND PROJECT PROPOSALS AND IS FREQUENTLY ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE PROJECTS.

4. COMMENT: AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, ANY INCREASE IN WORLD BANK CAPITAL COULD HAVE AN EFFECT ON VOTING RIGHTS OF THOSE PARTICIPATING. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ANY FURTHER INFORMATION THE DEPARTMENT COULD PROVIDE FROM BENJENK OR OTHERS ON PURPOSE OR RESULTS OF MCNAMARA VISIT TO AREA. AMBASSADOR PLANS TO MEET WITH AL-HAMAD WHEN LATTER RETURNS IN TEN DAYS' TIME TO DISCUSS THIS VISIT AND GENERAL QUESTIONS RELATED TO ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT.  
MAESTRONE

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## Message Attributes

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